

veteran Memorial Hermann Hospital System employees. Mr. Pittman had flown for more than 30 years, including 10 years as Life Flight pilot.

Hermann Life Flight is one of the most advanced emergency care helicopters in existence. Hermann Life Flight has logged more than one million air miles and flown more than 60,000 missions. This service is available 24 hours a day through the dedicated work of its 14 pilots, 13 flight nurses, 12 paramedics, 20 communications specialist and 6 mechanics. The Hermann Life Flight program includes three helicopters that provide emergency care services within 150 mile radius throughout Texas and western Louisiana. The cost of providing this service is more than \$3 million annually which is solely funded through community and fundraising efforts. The Hermann Life Flight program provides advanced emergency life support equipment, including cardiac monitors and defibrillators, temporary pacemakers, oxygen and materials for immobilization and isolettes for newborns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring their service to the community and in expressing my condolences to the families of Mr. Pittman, Ms. Etheridge, and Mr. Atteberry.

The Greek Poet Homer once wrote that "life and death are balanced on the edge of a razor." Their mission, indeed their job, to provide medical care to those with the greatest need was simple, but always with risk. They saved lives while balancing their own on the edge of a razor. Yet, they did this day in and day out. I know that John, Lynn and "Mac" were deeply committed to the services they provided to the greater Houston community. All Texans can be proud of the services they provided and the sacrifices they made. They will be missed.

A private memorial service for the emergency medical service community will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First United Methodist Church—Westchase Campus. A public memorial will be held at Rice Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH'S FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ITS PRIEST AND PARISHIONERS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the fortieth anniversary of the first mass of the Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, first formed by the Archbishop Edward H. Hoban on March 6, 1959.

The parish has come a long way from the first mass held in the Parmadale Orphanage on July 12, 1959 by the parish's founding pastor, Fr. Jeremy Fischer. It quickly became an integral part of the community and within a few months it had more than a thousand families registered and a very successful campaign to begin construction on its own building. On January 29, 1961 the new building, including a gym and school, was dedicated and served as the parish's home for twenty years

until the continuously growing parish of over 3400 families required a new home.

Under the guidance of the first principal, Mr. Frank Kuhar, the parish has dedicated itself to the education of our youth and to providing them a solid foundation from which they can progress to become God-fearing leaders of the community and a source of guidance and inspiration to the next generation.

On Sunday, July 11, 1999, at noon, Most Reverend A. Edward Pevec, Archbishop of Cleveland, will preside over mass at the parish which his predecessor had founded almost exactly forty years earlier. It will be followed by a reception in the school hall and a banquet and dance later in the evening.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the St. Anthony of Padua Parish's forty years of service and the dedication of its priests and parishioners to fostering the spiritual health and community life of its congregation.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT M. TOBIAS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to floor today to recognize the tremendous career of Bob Tobias, longtime friend and advocate to federal employees everywhere.

In August, Bob will not be seeking reelection for a fifth term as President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), an organization which represents more than 155,000 employees in 20 federal agencies and departments. During his 31 years with the NTEU, including 16 as President, he has turned it into one of the most effective voices federal employees have ever had.

Bob and I have worked together since I was first elected to Congress in 1990. Bob was extremely helpful in advising me on the complex legislation to promote fair and equitable compensation and benefits for our civil servants.

Bob earned his law degree from the George Washington University School of Law, based right here in DC. He then went on to use litigation as a tool to advance the interests of federal employees across America. Bob has led several landmark legal victories, including a successful half-billion dollar back pay suit against President Nixon, a federal court victory that gave federal workers the right to engage in informational picketing, and a Supreme Court win that overturned the ban on speaking and writing honoraria.

In fact, Bob has been involved in every major piece of legislation impacting federal employees during the last 20 years. These include the development of FERS, protecting the FEHBP, the restructuring of the IRS, and enacting the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act. He has also been tireless in promoting the idea that partnership can make the workplace better for federal employees, providing a more efficient service to the American taxpayer. Bob also led the fight to restore political freedom to federal employees in pushing for reform of the Hatch Act.

Bob is now focusing on different priorities; a second career as a teacher and writer on public policy issues beckons, where he will be able to educate a new generation.

I have enjoyed working with you Bob, and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues that are so important to working families. I wish you the best of luck.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2415 AND FOR RADIO FREE ASIA

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the authorizing committee in their commitment to fully authorize Radio Free Asia at \$30,000,000 and to lift the sunset provision of Radio Free Asia.

I have had a longstanding interest in U.S. international broadcasting and I am proud and delighted that Radio Free Asia is running so strongly and delivering accurate and timely news to those who would not otherwise receive it. In its fourth year of existence, RFA has been able to expand its service to provide information in nine languages to listeners in Asia who do not have access to full and free news media reaching countless people living in China, Tibet, Burma, Vietnam, North Korea, Laos and Cambodia.

I want to congratulate the Chairman and the committee on lifting the sunset on Radio Free Asia and call on the other body to do the same. RFA is the only U.S. international broadcaster to have a sunset provision. It is time to bring RFA in line with the rest of the international broadcasters.

As we continue to fight communism, dictatorships and human rights abusers in Asia, it is important democracy, freedom and the truth have a voice. RFA provides that voice.

This year the U.S. suffered first hand from the lack of free press in China in the wake of the Embassy bombing in Belgrade. RFA was one of the few news broadcasts to reach the Chinese people that provided the truth following the incident. And according to RFA call-in shows following the bombing, over half of the callers were critical of the way the Chinese government handled the situation. RFA also broadcasted a special series this summer commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Crackdown and providing a voice for family members to remember their loved ones.

China is not the only country where Radio Free Asia is reaching out to people. In Burma, Radio Free Asia regularly interviews Aung San Suu Kyi, keeping the hope of her party alive. A series was also conducted this year on AIDS in the country which included medical information about the disease. In Korean, stories ran on North Koreans defecting to China